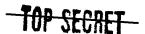
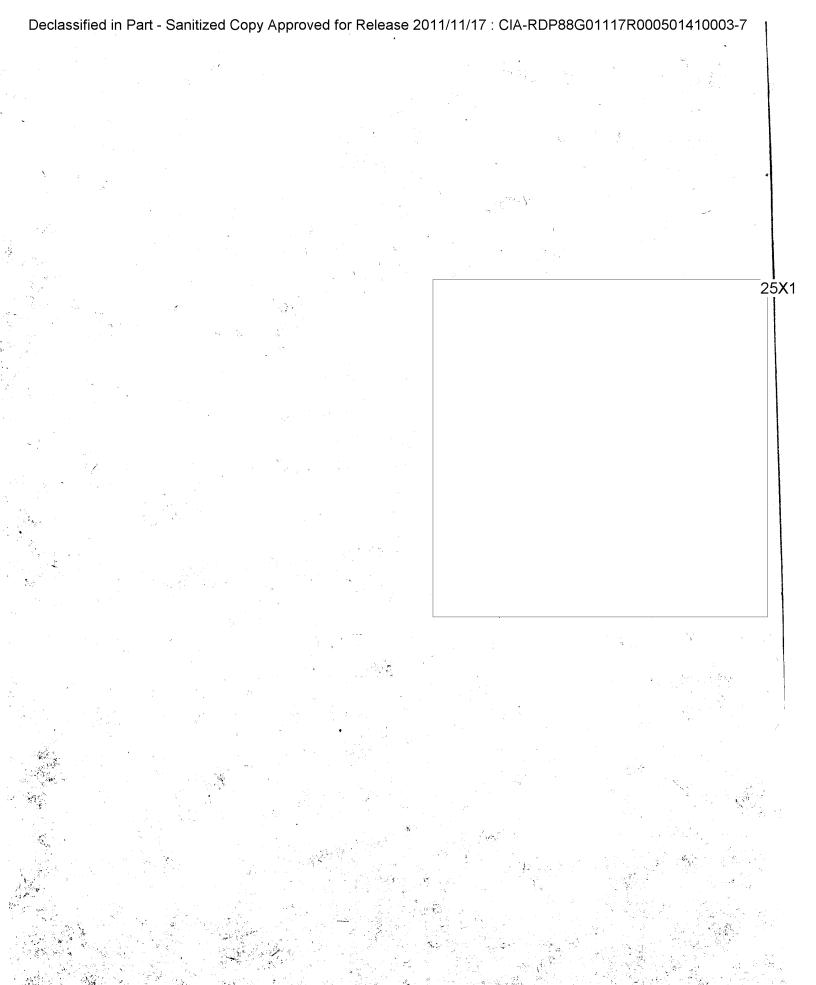
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Meeting with Mike Armacost and Mort Abramowitz

25 July 1986



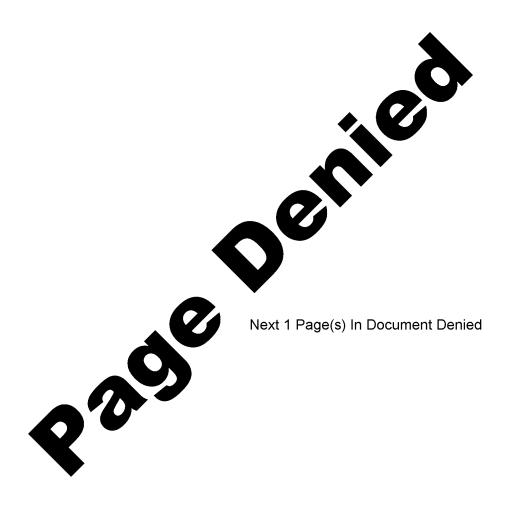


25 July 1986

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence MEMORANDUM FOR: Luncheon Meeting with Under Secretary of State for Political SUBJECT: Affairs Michael Armacost, Mort Abramowitz, Clair George and Dick Kerr, Friday, 25 July, 1230, in DCI Dining Room 25X1 The Philippines: The Bases Issue. TAB A At Tab A you 25X1 will find a recent NID item and an Embassy cable assessing recent developments with regard to the constitutional committee and the bases issue. We've also included copies of a typescript from the DI on our views of the troubled Aquino-Enrile relationship, in case you wish to pass them on. TAB B 25X1 25X1 NO TAB NO TAB TOP SECRET



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MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
              DECL: DADR
E.O. 12356:
TAGS: PGOV, RP
          CONCOW AND THE BASES
SUBJECT:
                          (B) MANILA 23310
REFS:
         (A) MANILA 23164,
    (S - ENTIRE TEXT).
    SUMMARY: KEY CONCOM SUPPORTERS OF THE BASES REMAIN
 CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF EVIDENT SUPPORT FROM
 PRESIDENT AQUINO ON THE BASES, FOLLOWING THEIR OWN
 APPEALS FOR HER SUPPORT, AND REGARDING THE WEAK
 LEADERSHIP OF CONCOR PRESIDENT MUNCZ-PALMA. THEY PROFESS
                                     SECRET
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TO HAVE 30 VOTES OUT OF 49 IN THE CENCOM BUT SAY THEY ARE SOFT VOTES. THEY REGARD SPEAKER LAUREL AS A WEAK REED ON WHICH TO LEAN AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MRS. AQUINO ASK HER MINISTERS TO CALL THE 30 CENTRISTS TO MARSHALL THEIR SUPPORT. ALTERNATIVELY, IN THEIR VIEW, MRS. AQUINO WILL HAVE TO INTERVENE HERSELF. THEY SAY THIS WEEK IS THE TIME TO LINE UP THEIR FORCES AND THAT PLENARY VOTING MAY OCCUR NEXT WEEK. I WENT OVER THIS GROUND AGAIN WITH TEDDY LOCSIN, WHO SAID HE WOULD TAKE IT UP AGAIN WITH THE PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY

- AT A DINNER JULY 22 FOR AID ASSISTANT ACMINISTRATOR CHARLIE GREENLEAF, I HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE CONCOM WITH THREE KEY AGUINO SUPPORTERS, ALL OF WHEN STRENGLY OPPOSE TREATMENT OF THE BASES OR OTHER "LEGISLATIVE" MATTERS IN THE CONSTITUTION. THE THREE ARE DICK ROMULO (SON OF THE GENERAL AND A PROMINENT LAWYER), JOSE "PEPS" BENGZON (ANOTHER LAWYER AND BROTHER OF THE HEALTH MINISTER), AND CHRIS MONSOD (THE CHAIRMAN OF NAMEREL AND HUSBAND OF THE NEDA MINISTER WINNIE MONSOD). ALL THREE WERE EAGER TO TALK AND EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS.
- ALL THREE VOLUNTEERED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE BASES ISSUE, SAYING THAT THE LEFT WAS WELL CREANIZED, DISCIPLINED AND FOCUSSED ON THE ISSUE. THE 17 NATIONALISTS WERE THERE FROM DAY TO NIGHT WHILE MANY OF THE AQUINO SUPPORTERS WERE MORE ELDERLY OR DISTRACTED BY OTHER COMMITMENTS. MONSOD SAID THE THREE HAD ESTABLISHED "ROW CAPTAINS" TO KEEP THEIR SUPPORTERS PRESENT AT THEIR DESK FOR KEY VOTES, BUT IT WAS NOT GOING TOO WELL. ALL THREE AGREED THAT THE CONCOR LEADERSHÍP WAS DEFICIENT. MUNOZ-PALMA WAS *TOO OLD, HAD A HEARING PROBLEM AND DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR PUSHY." NAP RAMA, THE FLOOR LEADER, ALSO WAS INADEQUATE_
- BENGZON SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 30 AQUINO SUPPORTERS -- MORE THAN ENOUGH TO WIN ANY VOTE ON THE FLOOR! --BUT MUCH OF THIS SUPPORT WAS "SOFT AND UNRELIABLE." SAID MANY OF THEM WERE PLIABLE, FEARFUL OF BEING

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CRITICIZED BY THE PRESS OR ATTACKED BY THE LEFT. (NINEZ CACHO-OLIVARES IN BUSINESS CAY AND LCUIS BELTRAN IN THE INQUIRER -- NOT TO PENTION PCRE RADICAL COLUMNISTS -- HAVE BEEN BANGING AWAY AT THE NEED TO USE THIS SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY TO ASSERT PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY.) BENGZON AND ROMULC SAIC THE KEY QUESTION, THEREFORE, WAS HOW TO STIFFEN THE BACKBONES OF CORY'S CENTRIST SUPPORTERS.

BENGZON SAID HE HAD MET WITH THE PRESIDENT PRIVATELY ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO "TO EXPLAIN THE CONCOM REALITIES." HE HAD GONE OVER THE PASES ISSUE, NOTED THE LEFTIST PRESSURES FOR "FREE EVERYTHING" (EDUCATION, HELFARE, ETC.) AND THE COUNTRY'S INABILITY TO SUPPORT SUCH A WELFARE STATE. HE HAD ARGUED AGAINST LEFTIST PROPOSALS REQUIRING 100 PERCENT PHILIPPINE CHNERSHIP OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS. HE ALSO HAD URGED WRS. AGUIND TO ACT ON JUSTICE MINISTER GONZALES! LONG-STANDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW JUDGES BEFCRE THE CONCOM FINISHED ITS WORK SO SHE WOULD NOT FACE CHARGES CF APPOINTING "MIDNIGHT JUDGES." BENGZON SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD REACTED POSITIVELY, ASKING HOW MANY VOTES THE LEFT HAD BUT APPARENTLY NOT TAKING ON BOARD THE UNRELIABILITY OF HER OWN SUPPORTERS.

ROMULO SAID HE HAD MET PRIVATELY LAST FRIDAY -- THE DAY BEFORE MY DISCUSSION WITH LOCSIN (REF A) -- WITH THE PRESIDENT, LOCSIN AND ARROYO. FE HAD COVERED THE S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILS 23494

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DADR E.O. 12356: DECL: TAGS: PGOV, RP CONCOM AND THE BASES

BASES ISSUE CAREFULLY AND FOLLOWED UP WITH A PERSONAL MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT THAT MADE FOUR KEY POINTS:

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A. FORGET THE LEFT AS THEY PROFESS TO OME YOU NOTHING; THEIR GOAL IS TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT;

GET YOUR WINISTERS TO CALL THE CENTRIST CONCOM MEMBERS THEY RECOMMENDED AND CALL IN THEIR CHITS (OR DO IT YOURSELF);

- TELL MUNOZ-PALMA AND RAMA TO GC ALL-OUT;
- COURT BLAS OPLE, WHO CAN BE HELPFUL OR COULD PLAY PARTISAN POLITICS IF HE SMELLS BLOCK (HE HAS DONE BOTH SO FAR).
- ROMULO (AND THE OTHERS) SAID THERE SO FAR HAVE BEEN "NO SIGNALS" FROM THE PALACE. WITHOUT REVEALING MY CONVERSATION (REF B), I ASKED WHETHER SPEAKER LAUREL COULD HELP. ROPULO SAID HE WAS TOO OLD AND HIS ATTENDANCE WAS SPOTTY. I ASKED ABOUT LOBBYING THE LEFT TO LAY OFF. THEY SAID THIS WAS WORTHLESS. ROMULO TERMED THIS WEEK THE CRUCIAL TIME TO LINE UP PRO-CORY FORCES AS PLENARY VOTING WAS SLATED FOR NEXT WEEK. THE MODERATES CONTROLLED THE STEERING CCMMITTEE AND COULD JUGGLE THE SCHEDULE A BIT, BUT NOT FCR LONG IF THE SEPT 2 DEADLINE WAS TO BE MET. ROYLLO SAID HE HAC TOLD CORY, IN HIS PERSONAL MEMO, THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN VISITING WASHINGTON IF SHE LOST ON THE BASES ISSUE --OR ON THE NUCLEARS OR ON PROPOSALS FOR A NEUTRALITY ZONE -- IN THE CONCOM.
- I REVIEWED THE CONCOM ISSUE AGAIN JULY 23 WITH LOCSIN, WHO SAID HE WOULD TAKE IT UP AGAIN WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE REITERATED MRS. AQUINO'S CONCERN FOR HER PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVES. HE ALSO NOTED HER RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON CONCOM AND THE BASES, AT THE JULY 21 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORLY, THAT SHE PREFERRED THAT CONCOM NOT LEGISLATE, SHE WISHED TO KEEP HER OPTIONS OPEN AND THAT BUSINESSMEN MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO CONCOM (SEE SEPTEL).
- COMPENT: AQUINO CLEARLY HAS THE PESSAGE NOW FROM SEVERAL FRIENDLY SOURCES. SHE SEEKS PREPARED TO TAKE

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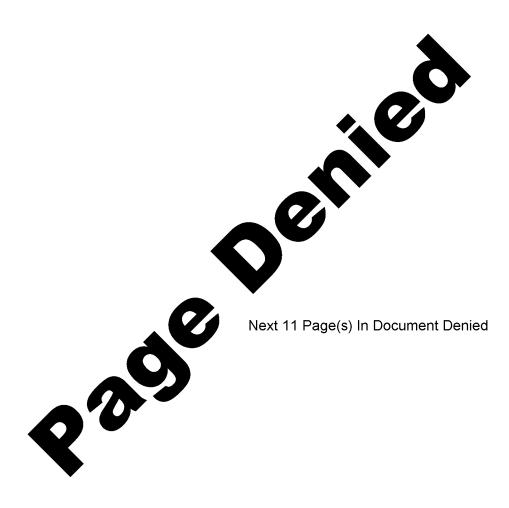
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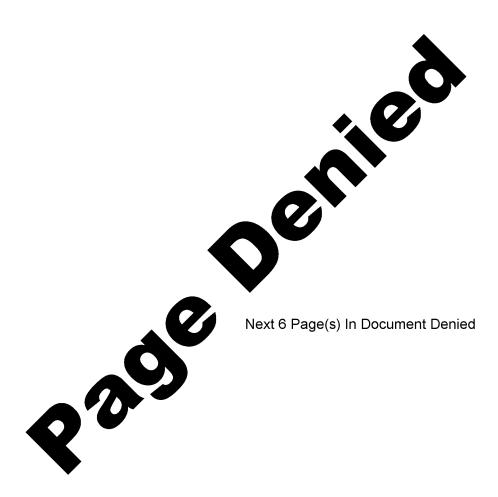
THE ISSUE ON. HER NOSE-COUNTING MAY BE INSPIRING EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM BECAUSE THE LEFTISTS THEMSELVES ARE RELATIVELY LIMITED IN NUMBERS. MOREOVER, HER TACTICS MAY BE DEFICIENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP ON THIS, THROUGH LOCSIN AND ROMULO, WHILE AVCIDING ACTIONS THAT WOULD JUSTIFY CHARGES OF MEDDLING. I HAVE BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR, WHO IS DUE BACK IN THE CFFICE ON FRIDAY. KAPLAN

END OF MESSAGE

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